

**State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights**  
**Commission Meeting**  
**March 10, 2015 – 10am**  
**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Shawn M. Wright, Esq., Chairperson; DeWayne Wickham; Gary Norman, Esq.; Rabbi Binyamin Marwick; Laura Esquivel

**Present via Conference Call:** Gina McKnight-Smith, Pharm. D., M.B.A.; Robert L. Baum, Vice Chairperson; Naima Said, Esq.

**Management Present:** Alvin O. Gillard, Executive Director; Nicolette Young, Assistant Director; Glendora C. Hughes, General Counsel

**Staff Present:** S. Spencer Dove, Executive Associate

ITEM	SUMMARY	ACTION
<b>Call to Order</b>	1. Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m.	None.
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	1. January, 2015 minutes – motion for approval by Commissioner McKnight-Smith, seconded Commissioner Wickham; carries unanimously. 2. February, 2015 minutes – motion for approval by Commissioner Wickham, seconded by Commissioner Norman; carries unanimously.	January & February, 2015 Minutes approved.
<b>Chairperson's Report</b>	1. Commissioners need a method to receive Case Processing data on a consistent basis. 2. Please file Ethics Disclosure by the end of April. 3. Review of legislative process 4. Commissioner Attendance Report for 2014 discussed.	None.
<b>Executive Director's Report</b>	1. February 26, 2015 – MCCR participated in Maryland Transportation Authority's Black History Month celebration. Executive Director gave remarks to the 100 attendants. 2. Participated in young Jewish leaders in a discussion of Black-Jewish relations thanks to an invitation from the Baltimore Jewish Council. 3. Reminder that Human Rights Day in Annapolis is rescheduled to March 20, 2015 from 9a to 12p. 4. MCCR sponsoring "train the trainer" workshop at Anne Arundel Community College this Friday for the "Fair Housing Five" April Fair Housing Month project. 5. April 30, 2015 – MCCR in-service training day. Traveling to Cambridge, MD for historical overview of fair housing struggles relating to Maryland's Eastern Shore during the 1960's, as well as the importance of MCCR Field Offices in carrying out agency services. Will provide background on Maryland's impact both locally and nationwide with respect to Fair Housing Act, Civil Rights Act, race and intergroup relations, and much more. 6. Staff committed to working with Commissioners to formulate MCCR's legislative agenda and strategy,	None.

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	beginning in May, 2015 for the 2016 Legislative Session. Staff recommendations will be presented to Commissioners at April, 2015 Commission meeting.	
<b>Deputy Director's Report</b>	1. None.	
<b>Assistant Director's Report</b>	1. Provided overview to Commissioners regarding MCCR's budget hearings in Annapolis before the House Subcommittee on Health & Human Resources and the Senate Subcommittee on Health & Human Services. Department of Legislative Services concurred with the Governor's budgetary allowance for MCCR. MCCR received some follow-up questions from legislators via email. Staff answering those questions by the end of the week. 2. New Intake Officer started last week to fill vacancy in that unit.	None.
<b>General Counsel's Report</b>	1. Reviewed key points of report submitted to Executive Director. 2. Attended "Beyond Ferguson" series sponsored by University of Maryland Law School. 3. Reviewed MCCR's work on legislation in Annapolis, and status of bills of interest to MCCR.	None.
<b>Old Business</b>	1. Commissioner Esquivel requests that MCCR revisits the idea of moving Commission meetings around the State. Chair and Executive Director recommending that the first possible off-site Commission meeting be in June, 2015.	Information to come.
<b>New Business</b>	1. Commissioner Esquivel raised issue that for the second year in a row there has been an increase in hate crimes in Montgomery County, especially based on religious/Jewish grounds. Executive Director will be reaching out to Montgomery County Human Rights Commission to inquire.	Information to come.
<b>Good &amp; Welfare</b>	1. Commissioner Norman shared information regarding various conferences occurring in the next couple of months centered around disability issues.	None.
<b>Adjournment</b>	1. Meeting adjourned at 12:04p.	Adjourned